

It's Holiday Time!

Every year at this time we offer a list of the most common holiday hazards for pets: feeding problems, foreign-body ingestion, heat stress, noise stress and accidental poisoning.

Feeding problems: Foods too rich, too fatty or too spicy, or anything your pet's not accustomed to, can trigger a bout of intestinal upset. While a little bit of meat won't hurt and would be appreciated, steer clear of the fatty parts such as pork products and poultry skin.

Foreign-body ingestion: Cooked poultry bones may seem like the perfect gift for the pet who has everything, but do him a favor and bin them. Even the largest turkey bones are prone to splintering, sending shards through the animal's intestines.
Dangerous decorations: The Christmas tree is full of hazards for dogs and cats. Tinsel can be an appealing target for play, but if ingested, it can twist up the intestines. This is a particular danger to cats and kittens, who seem to find tinsel, along with yarn, ribbon and string, especially appealing to eat.

Ornaments, too, are deadly in the mouths and stomachs of pets. Light strings are good for chewing, and the whole tree can come down on the cat climbing in its branches. Why else, they reason, would anyone bring a tree into the house?

Poisonings: be aware that chocolate, macadamia nuts and grapes (fresh or dried) are toxic to dogs and may be deadly to the little dog that gets a good dose.

No one's saying your pet shouldn't enjoy a special holiday meal, too, but limiting the kind and amount of special food will ensure that it is a treat and not a disaster.

Happy Holidays,

Scott and Chris